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LOCAL MEETINGS AND PERSONAL NOTICES.

Congratulations to Professor Putnam. During the past two months Professor Putnam has been the recipient of numerous congratulations on the completion of his half century of service with Harvard University.

Professor Putnam was born in 1839, and came to Cambridge in 1856, on the invitation of Louis Agassiz. In his native town, Salem, Mass., he had early turned his attention to scientific pursuits, and when only fourteen years old had been employed by the Essex Institute as Curator of its collections. In 1856, at the age of sixteen years, he prepared a "Catalogue of Birds of Essex County, Mass.," so nearly complete as since to have received only moderate additions. In Cambridge he assisted Professor Agassiz in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, having the title of "Assistant in Charge of Fishes." From 1867 he was led to take an especial interest in American Archæology, and in 1875 became first Acting Curator and then Curator in the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology, established by George Peabody in 1866. In 1873 he was made Permanent Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a position which he held for twenty-five years. In 1886 he was made Peabody Professor in Harvard University, and continued to preside over the Museum, on which he had already lavished all his energies. In 1893 he became the Chief of the Department of Ethnology in the Chicago Exposition, and was mainly instrumental in the construction of the Anthropological Building, out of which afterwards grew the Field Columbian Museum. In 1894 he was appointed Curator of the Department of Anthropology in the Museum of Natural History, New York; and in 1903 resigned this position to accept the professorship of Anthropology in the University of California. In 1888 he assisted in founding the American Folk-Lore Society, and from 1889 has been the President of the Boston Branch of that Society; in 1905 he aided in the formation of the California Branch, of which he is also president.

When Professor Putnam took the direction of the Peabody Museum, and until a period much later, the objects and aims of anthropology were altogether uncomprehended in America, still under the narrow influences of the old-fashioned classical education. It could not then have been imagined that within a few years even special students of Greek and Latin would welcome the new science as furnishing necessary light for their own investigations, or that the methods of anthropology would revolutionize philosophical and theological studies, and give a new meaning to historical inquiries. Pro-

fessor Putnam has outlived this time of miscomprehension; he has seen this subject, once allowed as a proper part of education, suddenly expand into one of the great Departments of the University, having in the present year almost two hundred students. From the impulse personally given by himself have sprung great museums, in New York, Chicago, and Berkeley, conducted by professors who have come from his school, or been promoted by his influence. This result could not have been achieved without a spirit of generosity, self-sacrifice, and indifference to wealth and worldly position, which offers the most needed of examples. The respect due to such a career should be proportioned to the unjust indifference which marked the earlier stages of its activity; as an example of and the sincerity with which such feeling is shared by his classical colleagues may be cited the concluding verses of a congratulatory poem from Professor C. R. Lanman of Harvard University:—

The past of a mysterious folk to ken
From grave or shell-heap, pueblo, serpent-mound,
To read a book writ with nor ink nor pen,—
Such was thy task. We see what thou hast found.

Old as the Old World is the New World's face.
Its past no more can wholly hid remain.
For, lo, the romance of a vanished race,
Thou callest back and bidst to live again.

Dr. John H. Hinton. The services of John H. Hinton, for fifteen years Treasurer of the American Folk-Lore Society, have already been acknowledged in this Journal; but it remains to add facts not accessible when such tribute was penned. Dr. Hinton was born in New York city, January 1, 1827. In 1852 he graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and subsequently spent his time in hospital study. In March, 1854, he went to Paris, where he continued to pursue studies in hospitals, and on his return served as hospital surgeon in New York. During the war of the rebellion he was for a period employed as Army Surgeon. In after years he became Visiting Surgeon at the Institution for the Blind, and also belonged to the Surgical Staff of the Presbyterian Hospital. Among the numerous societies of which he was treasurer were the Society for the Aid of the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, the Pathological Society (for 34 years). In the last named society, as in the American Folk-Lore Society, he held this office until January, 1905.